

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 24th Day of May, 1770.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH:

Printed by ROBERT FLEMING, Printer to the Church of
Scotland. M,DCC,LXX.

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A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
OF
S C O T L A N D,

Begun at Edinburgh, the 24th Day of May 1770, and concluded
the 4th Day of June said Year.

I.

The King's Commission to JOHN Earl
of Glasgow produced, and ordered to
be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 24th, 1770.

THE General Assembly of this National Church
being convened and constituted, there was pro-
duced to them, by the Right Honourable JOHN
Earl of GLASGOW, the King's Commission, sealed
with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept
and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*,
making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissi-
oner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commis-
sion

tion was publicly read, with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly : The tenor whereof follows :

“ **G** E O R G I U S, D E I gratia, Magnae Britanniae,
 “ Franciae, et Hiberniae Rex, Fidei Defensor.
 “ Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos praesentes literae
 “ nostrae pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos confi-
 “ derantes, quod generalis ecclesiae Scotiae conventus in
 “ vigesimum quartum diem mensis Maii proxime convenire
 “ ordinatus fuit ; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam
 “ necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictae eccle-
 “ siae, ut idem generalis ecclesiae conventus, die statuto
 “ debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio
 “ vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequi-
 “ mus ; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficien-
 “ tia fidelissimi nostri consanguinei Joannis Comitis de
 “ Glasgou, quod ad summum munus supremi nostri
 “ Commissionarii dict. generalis ecclesiae conventus rite
 “ exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus ;
 “ noveritis igitur nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse,
 “ sicuti nos, tenore praesentium, nominamus, constitui-
 “ mus, et ordinamus, memoratum fidelissimum et praedi-
 “ lectissimum nostrum consanguineum Joannem Comi-
 “ tem de Glasgou, supremum nostrum Commissionari-
 “ um dict. generalis ecclesiae Scotiae conventus, dando
 “ et concedendo illi plenissimam nostram potestatem,
 “ commissionem, et warrantum sacram nostram perso-
 “ nam et auctoritatem regalem repraesentandi, necnon
 “ praesentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in
 “ dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Com-
 “ missionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constitu-
 “ to, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et locum Com-
 “ missionarii pro generali ecclesiae conventu peragendi,
 “ tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis respectu, quam
 “ quilibet alius ejusdem summi muneris fecerat, seu quo-
 “ vis tempore praeterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ip-
 “ si personaliter praesentes facere potuerimus. Quaeque
 “ omnia et singula ab antedicto Joanne Comite de Glas-
 “ gow, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime
 “ fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus,
 “ et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper ante-
 “ dictae ecclesiae et conventus pastoribus, et presbyteris,
 “ caeterisque quibuscunque, infra illam partem Magnae
 “ Britanniae

“ Britanniae, Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris quibus-
 “ cunque, cujuscunque gradus, seu qualitatis, ut dictum
 “ Joannem Comitem de Glasgow, tanquam supremum
 “ nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum supra men-
 “ tionat. revereantur, agnoscant, et dict. ipsius audientes
 “ se praebeant, stricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque
 “ hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo quarto
 “ die Maii proxime incipere, et deinceps hac subsequen-
 “ te sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continu-
 “ are declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et
 “ exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum no-
 “ strum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia,
 “ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem, praesentibus appendi
 “ mandavimus; apud aulam nostram de St James’s, vi-
 “ gesimo quarto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini mille-
 “ simo septingentesimo septuagesimo, regnique nostri an-
 “ no decimo. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis su-
 “ praescript.”



II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the
General Assembly, presented to them
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and well beloved, we greet you
 well. After the repeated proofs which you have in
 all times past given of your zeal for the maintainance and
 advancement of the Protestant religion, and of your unsha-
 ken loyalty and affection for our person and government,
 we do most willingly countenance this your meeting with
 our approbation and Royal authority; having the fullest
 reliance, that you will continue to act upon the same well-
 grounded principles, for the encouragement of virtue, in
 the best and most effectual manner; and you may be as-
 B fured,

fured, that the Church of Scotland, as established by law, shall have our protection to secure it to the enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

As we have had intire satisfaction in the fidelity and abilities of our Right Trusty and Well Beloved cousin, JOHN Earl of Glasgow, and as we have already had testimonies of his diligence and prudence in the discharge of so important a trust, we have again made choice of him to represent our person on this occasion, being fully persuaded that the experience you have of his steady attachment to our service, and of his zealous adherence to the church of Scotland, will render him acceptable to you.

The advancement of true religion and piety being the chief object of your assembling at this time, we are convinced that nothing will be wanting on your part, that may contribute to attain that good and desirable end: And so we bid you heartily farewell.

Given at our Court at St James's, the 24th day of April 1770, in the tenth year of our reign.

By his Majesty's command,

(Signed) ROCHFORD.



III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the ministers and elders of the church of Scotland, met together in the national Assembly, received with the most profound

profound respect, your Majesty's royal assurances of your firm trust in our unshaken loyalty and affection for your Majesty's person and government; and of our zeal for the maintainance and advancement of the Protestant religion.

The church of Scotland, happy in the enjoyment of all its rights and privileges under your Majesty's mild and legal administration, feels sentiments of increasing affection and fidelity to a Prince whose invariable rule of government every year's experience demonstrates, is respect for the laws and constitution.

Firm and unanimous in those principles, the reliance your Majesty is pleased to place on our endeavours for the encouragement of virtue, and your assurance of the continuance of your royal protection, excite in us the strongest desire, and shall engage us in the most steady application to train up your people, under our charge, to religion and virtue, which will best insure their obedience to the laws, and their subordination to government.

We beg leave to express our humble thanks to your Majesty, for your attention to the propagation of Christian knowledge, and the principles of the reformed religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, parts of your Majesty's dominions; in which happy experience convinces us, that the interests of religion and government coincide, in a particular manner. It is our duty and inclination at all times, to apply your Majesty's royal donations with the most prudent care; and our attention shall not now be wanting to an object that so much engages your Majesty's paternal wisdom.

We have had experience, on so many former occasions, of the loyalty, integrity, and prudence of the noble Lord whom your Majesty has appointed to represent your royal person in this General Assembly; of his exemplary regard for religion, and of his zeal for the true interest of this church, that we consider your Majesty's repeated choice of him as an additional mark of your favour.

Permit us to assure your Majesty, that we shall at this time endeavour to conduct all our deliberations with a steady view to the important object your Majesty points out to us, the advancement of true religion and piety, with such temper, moderation, and brotherly love, as shall, we trust, secure to us the continuance of your Majesty's approbation,

approbation, and most effectually promote the great end of our meeting.

That Almighty God may protect your person, prolong your days, and establish your throne in righteousness, that your people may be happy under your legal and gracious administration ; that you may be honoured, as an instrument of divine Providence for their good ; that the divine favour may ever attend your Royal Consort, our most gracious Queen ; that he may bless his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with such qualities as suit his exalted station ; that he may pour down blessings on all the Royal family, and that, after reigning long with felicity and wisdom upon earth, you may receive the recompence of an heavenly crown, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient

And most loyal subjects,

The ministers and elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

ALEXANDER CARLYLE Moderator.

EDIN. 26th

May, 1770.

An

IV.

An Address by the General Assembly to his Majesty.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the ministers and elders of the church of Scotland, embrace with pleasure an opportunity which is offered us by providence, during our meeting in the General Assembly, of congratulating your Majesty on the safe delivery of the Queen, and the birth of a Princess.

This happy event, while it fills our hearts, as it must do those of all your faithful subjects, with joy, gives us fresh reason to acknowledge the goodness of God, in thus farther securing to us, by the increase of your royal family, a long continuance of those inestimable blessings which we have hitherto enjoyed under the protection of your Majesty's illustrious house.

While attempts have been made to disturb the order of government, and diminish the affection of your people towards a Sovereign who is so worthy of their confidence and trust, we esteem ourselves happy, in being able to assure your Majesty of the firm and unperturbed loyalty of the people under our care, and of their taking equal concern with us in every event that is auspicious to your Majesty's family, persuaded that liberty is only secure when due reverence to the laws is preserved: We rejoice in having a Prince, who has shown, that, whilst he maintains the most sacred regard to the British constitution, he knows how to support with propriety the dignity of the throne.

That Almighty God may pour down his blessings on your Majesty, on the Queen, and on all the royal family; that he may prolong your reign in the midst of national prosperity,

prosperity, and may establish your throne in the hearts of a dutiful people, are the constant and fervent prayers of,

Most gracious Sovereign,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal subjects,

The ministers and elders met in this national Assembly of the church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

ALEXANDER CARLYLE, Moderator.

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

THE General Assembly do hereby nominate and appoint Dr Alexander Carlyle minister of the gospel at Inveresk, their moderator, all the ministers, members of

of the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Patrick Duff at Old Macher, Professor John Leslie at Aberdeen, Mr William Maitland at Tarland, Mr Alexander Stewart at Leslie, Mr Andrew Skene at Banff, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairnie, Mr John Grant at Dundurcas, Mr William Gordon at Alvie, Mr Lewis Grant at Duthell, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr Duncan Shaw at Rafford, Mr Robert Monro at Knockbayne, Dr John Bethune at Roskeen, Mr Colin M'Kenzie at Foderty, Mr Andrew Gallie at Laggan, Mr Roderick M'Leod at Brackadale, Mr Colin M'Farquhar at Applecross, Mr William M'kenzie at Tong, Mr John Cameron at Halkirk, Mr George Douglas at Kirkwall, Mr Thomas Hepburn at Birsay, Mr James Leslie at Rousay, Mr James Watson at Mid Calder, Mr John Johnston at Biggar, Mr Thomas Gibson at Kirkurd, Mr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr William Home at Fogo, Mr Philip Redpath at Hutton, Dr Thomas M'Dougal at Mackerston, Dr James M'Knight at Jedburgh, Mr John Martin at Merton, Mr William Campbell at Lillyslief, Mr Thomas Smith at Cummertrees, Mr John Scotland at Westerkirk, Mr David Imrie at St Mungo, Mr Patrick Nisbet at Hutton, Mr William Wright at New Abbey, Mr Ebenezer Stot at Minigaff, Mr John Cunningham at Monkton, Mr Gilbert Lang at Largs, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr John Risk at Dalserf, Mr William M'Cubbin at Douglas, Dr Robert Trail at Glasgow, Mr William M'Leod at Campbelton, Mr John M'Aulay at Inverary, Mr Patrick M'Donald at Kilmore, Mr Alexander Stewart at Blair-Athole, Dr James Oswald at Methven, Mr David Thomson at Gargunnock, Mr Robert Menzies at Comrie, Mr Neil Bethune at Kennoway, Dr John Chalmers at Kilconquhar, Principal Muirison at St Andrews, Dr James Blenshall at Dundee, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Professor Cumming at Glasgow, Mr James Baillie at Hamilton, Mr Archibald Stevenson at St Mado, and Mr George M'Leish at Skipness, ministers; Mr David Dalrymple procurator for the church, Mr John Clerk merchant in Edinburgh, Mr John Robertson writer there, Mr George Ogilvie, advocate, the honourable Charles Hope-Weir, Mr Cosmo Gordon, advocate, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, Dr Gregory Grant, physician, Mr James Colquhoun advocate, Baillie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, Mr David

David Ross of Inverhassly, Mr Walter Gibson surgeon in Leith, Mr James Grant advocate, Mr William Craig advocate, Mr William M'Donald writer to the signet, Mr John Mossman merchant in Edinburgh, George Sinclair of Ulbster, Conveener Thomas Simpson, Mr Robert Blair advocate, Mr John Learmonth merchant in Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Cleland saddler there, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Conveener Alexander Smith, Mr Walter Scot merchant in Edinburgh, the Lord Advocate, the Lord President, Lord Coalston, James Wilkie of Gilkerston, Esq; Mr John Swinton *tertius*, advocate, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; John Fordyce of Aytoun, Esq; Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Mr Solicitor Dundas, Mr John Lawrie preacher of the gospel, the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr Thomas Hogg advocate, Mr Adam Ogilvie advocate, Gideon Schaw of Lawriston, Esq; Mr Alexander Orr writer to the signet, John Craigie, Esq; Mr Alexander Ferguson advocate, Mr Andrew Crosbie advocate, Mr William M'Culloch writer in Edinburgh, Archibald Cockburn, Esq; of Cockpen, Dr Colin Drummond, Dr Findlay of Drummore, John Buchan of Lethem, Mr John Chalmers writer to the signet, the honourable Patrick Boyle, Mr Robert Sinclair advocate, Mr Walter Coffar merchant in Edinburgh, Dean of Guild Smellie in Glasgow, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Professor Adam Ferguson, Mr Alexander Belsches advocate, Mr Andrew Balfour advocate, Samuel Charters, Esq; John M'Naughton, Esq; Mr William Chalmers writer in Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Hart writer there, Mr John Lothian merchant there, William Alexander, Esq; John Adams, Esq; of Maryburgh, Mr John Scot advocate, Mr William Galloway merchant in Edinburgh, Mr Cunninghame of Hyndhope, Bailie Trotter merchant in Edinburgh, and Dr James Williamson, ruling elders; to be a committee of this Assembly, for reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the royal bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the committee are to appoint preachers and catechists to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they

they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small-Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee shall find, by reason of their vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such preachers and catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of, the presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly observed by them. And the preachers are also appointed to catechise; and both they and the catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick: And, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the preachers and catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said committee to have a particular regard in their proceedings to the regulations agreed upon by the committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies; and to take care that presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several presbyteries to insert in their registers, the committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the moderator of the committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the presbytery, by the moderator or clerk
D thereof;

thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts. The General Assembly do also empower the said committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them: And they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accompts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above-named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, that at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said committee are appointed to have their meetings at Edinburgh, in the hall of the society in Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge, the last Thursday of every month, at four of the clock afternoon, and also the first lawful day after the adjournment of the four stated diets of the commission of the General Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places, as they shall find most needful and convenient; and they are to keep a correspondence with the commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the synods and presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do by these presents nominate and appoint Mr David Dalrymple advocate, procurator for the Church, to be receiver of the foresaid Royal bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said

said committee, and according to their rules. And the said committee are appointed to examine the accompts of the distribution of the Royal bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall ly on the table till another meeting; and, in the mean time, the person complained of, and the presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, that after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the presbyteries concerned, such presbyteries shall send up to the said committee, their answer to these letters, at farthest with their commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which are appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible: And that the said committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

Commission

VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering that there are divers affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate, and appoint, the Reverend Dr Alexander Carlyle minister of the gospel at Inveresk, their moderator; and from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr Patrick Duff at Old-machar, Dr Alexander Gerard at Aberdeen, Mr Joseph Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr Alexander Temple at Newhills, ministers, Sir James Cockburn, Baronet, and James Cunningham of Hyndhope, ruling elders: From the King's College of Aberdeen, Professor John Lesly: From the presbytery of Kincardine-O'Neil, Mr John Abel at Echt, Mr William Morris at Lumphanan, Mr William Maitland at Tarland, ministers, and Sir Arthur Forbes of Craigievar, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Garioch, Mr John Mair at Ryne, Mr Alexander Stewart at Leslie, Mr George Adams at Kintore, ministers, and Mr David Dalrymple advocate, procurator for the Church, ruling elder: From the burgh of Inverury, Mr John Clerk merchant in Edinburgh: From the presbytery of Deer, Mr William Cummin at Tyrie, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Charles Keay at Deer, ministers, and Mr John Taylor writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr James Lawtie at Fordyce, Mr Andrew Skene at Banff, ministers, and Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder: From the burgh of Cullen, Mr George Ogilvie, advocate: From the burgh of Banff, the Honourable Charles Hope-Weir, Esq;: From the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairnie, Mr John Brown at Rainie, ministers, and Mr Cosmo Gordon, advocate, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Aberdour, Mr James Ogilvie at Rothies, Mr John Grant at Dundurcas, ministers, and Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, ruling elder:
From

From the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr William Gordon at Alvie, Mr Lewis Grant at Duthill, ministers, and Dr Gregory Grant, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Elgin, Mr James Crombie at Longbride, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, ministers, and Dr John Tait physician in Esperston, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Forres, Mr Duncan Schaw at Rafford, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkellie, ministers, and Professor Cumming at Glasgow, ruling elder: From the burgh of Forres, Mr James Colquhoun advocate: From the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Monro at Knockbane, Mr Thomas Simpson at Avoch ministers, and Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Tain, Mr George Balfour at Tarbat, Dr John Bethune at Rosekeen, ministers, and David Ross of Inverhausley, Esq; ruling elder: From the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers, Esq; of Larbert: From the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr Colin M'Kenzie at Fodderty, ministers, and Mr Walter Gibson, surgeon in Leith, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr John Grant at Urquhart, Mr Andrew Gallie at Laggan, ministers, and Mr James Grant advocate, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Skye, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Roderick MacLeod at Brackadale, ministers, and Mr William Craig advocate, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Gairloch, Mr James Robertson at Lochbroom, Mr Colin M'Farquhar at Applecross, ministers, and Mr William M'Donald writer to the signet, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Tong, Mr George Munro at Farr, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tong, ministers, Mr John Mosman merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Caithness, Mr James Brodie at Lathron, Mr John Cameron at Halkirk, ministers, and George Sinclair of Ulbster, Esq; ruling elder: From the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr John Scollay at St Andrews, Mr George Douglas at Kirkwall, ministers, and Conveener Thomas Simson, ruling elder: From the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr Robert Blair advocate: From the presbytery of Cairnston, Mr Thomas Hepburn at Birsay, Mr James Tyrie at Sandwich, ministers, and Mr John Learmonth merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder: From the presbytery of North Isles, Mr Alexander Pitcairn at Shapinshaw, Mr James Leslie at Rousay, ministers, and Mr Thomas Cleland fadler in Edinburgh, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr Patrick Cumming, Mr

E

John

John Gibson and Mr Alexander Stewart at Westkirk, Mr David Johnston at North Leith, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, Mr Henry Hunter at South Leith, ministers, Bailie Thomas Trotter, Gilbert Laurie, Esq; and Mr John Cleghorn, ruling elders: From the city of Edinburgh, James Stewart, Esq; Lord Provost, and Conveener Alexander Smith: From the university of Edinburgh, Principal Robertson: From the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr Adam Wedderstone at Bathgate, Mr James Watson at Mid-Calder, Mr William Porteous at Whitburn, Mr William Gib at Uphall, ministers, Lord Napier and Mr Charles Addison merchant in Borrowstounness, ruling elders: From the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Alan Waugh: From the burgh of Queensferry, Mr Walter Scot merchant in Edinburgh: From the presbytery of Biggar, Mr John Johnston at Biggar, Mr William Tait at Kilbucho, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, ministers: From the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Thomas Gibson at Kirkurd, Mr William Anderson at Mannor, ministers, and James Montgomery, Esq; his Majesty's advocate, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr George Wishart one of the ministers of Edinburgh, Mr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr James Steel at Cockpen, ministers, and the Right Hon. the Lord President, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Archibald Blair at Garvet, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr Matthew Murray at North-Berwick, and Lord Coalston, ruling elder: From the burgh of Haddington, James Wilkie of Gilkerston, Esq;: From the burgh of North-Berwick, Mr John Swinton *tertius*, advocate: From the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr Adam Dickson at Whittingham, Mr William Crombie at Spot, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn, Esq; advocate, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Dunse, Mr William Home at Fogo, Mr Robert Bowmaker at Dunse, ministers, John Fordyce of Ayton, Esq; ruling elder: From the presbytery of Chirnside, Dr Walter Anderson at Chirnside, Mr Thomas Tait at Eymouth, ministers, Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Kelso, Dr Thomas M'Dougal at Mackerston, Mr David Dickson at Ednem, ministers, and Henry Dundas, Esq; his Majesty's Solicitor, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr Thomas Somerville at Minto, Dr James M'Knight at Jedburgh, Mr James Erskine at Kirkcubright, ministers, and Mr John Laurie preacher of the gospel, ruling elder: From the

the presbytery of Lauder, Mr Abraham Ker at Nenthorn, Mr John Martin at Mertoun, ministers, and the Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder: From the burgh of Lauder, Mr Thomas Hogg advocate: From the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr William Campbell of Lilliesleef, Mr Robert Gillon at Lessudden, ministers, Mr Adam Ogilvie advocate, ruling elder: From the burgh of Selkirk, Gideon Shaw of Lauriston, Esq;: From the presbytery of Annan, Mr Thomas Smith at Cummertrees, Mr John Craig at Kirkpatrick, ministers, and Mr Alexander Orr writer to the signet, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Langholm, Mr Richard Scot at Ewes, Mr John Scotland at Westerkirk, ministers, and Mr John Craigie, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr David Imrie at St Mungo, Mr Joseph Ferguson at Tindergarph, Mr Patrick Nisbet at Hutton, ministers, and Mr Peter Haliday in Barntempen, ruling elder: From the burgh of Lochmaben, James Mounsay of Rammerscales, Esq;: From the presbytery of Penpont, Mr Alexander Bayne at Keir, Mr Robert Aitken at Mortoun, ministers, and Mr Alexander Ferguson advocate, ruling elder: From the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr Thomas Mutter at Dumfries, Mr James Alexander at Kirkbean, Mr William Wright at New-abbay, ministers, Mr Andrew Crosbie advocate, ruling elder: From the burgh of Dumfries, Provost John Dickson: From the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Nathaniel M'Kie at Cross-michael, Mr John Gillespie at Kells, Mr William Robb at Tongueland, ministers, and William Campbell of Queenshill, Esq; ruling elder: From the presbytery of Wigton, Mr Ebenezer Stott at Minnigaff, Mr Robert Henderson at Kirkinner, ministers, and Mr William M'Culloch writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder: From the burgh of Wigton, Archibald Cockburn of Cockpen, Esq;: From the burgh of Whitehorn, Dr Colin Drummond: From the presbytery of Stranrawer, Mr John Hunter at Stonnykirk, Mr James Tweeddale at Old Luce, ministers, and Dr Robert Findlay of Drummore, ruling elder: From the burgh of Stranrawer, John Buchan of Lethem, Esq;: From the presbytery of Ayr, Mr Alexander Moodie at Riccarton, Mr Thomas Walker at Dundonald, Mr Patrick Woodrow at Tarbolton, Mr Andrew Mitchell at Muirkirk, Mr John Cunningham at Monkton, ministers, Ivie Hair of Rankieston, and William Campbell of Fairfield, ruling elders: From the burgh of Ayr, Mr John Chalmers

Chalmers writer to the signet : From the presbytery of Irvine, Mr Malcolm Brown at Kilbirnie, Mr Gilbert Lang at Largs, Mr Henry Graham at Cumbray, ministers, and the honourable Patrick Boyle, ruling elder : From the presbytery of Paisley, Mr David Turner at Greenock, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Mr George Muir at Paisley, ministers, Bailie James Wilson in Greenock, and Bailie James Wilson in Paisley, ruling elders : From the burgh of Renfrew, Bailie Robert King : From the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Robert Bell at Strathaven, Mr James Baillie at Hamilton, Mr John Risk at Dalserf, ministers, and Mr Robert Sinclair advocate, ruling elder : From the presbytery of Lanerk, Mr James Scot at Carluke, Mr Thomas Linning at Lesmahago, Mr William M'Cubbin at Douglas, ministers, and Sir Archibald Denholm of Westshiells, ruling elder : From the burgh of Lanerk, Mr Walter Coffer merchant in Edinburgh : From the presbytery of Glasgow, Dr Robert Trail, Mr John Ker at Carmunnock, Mr John Telfer at Kilsyth, ministers, and Provost Ingram of Glasgow, ruling elder : From the city of Glasgow, Dean of Guild Smellie : From the university of Glasgow, Principal Leechman : From the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr Andrew Gray at New Kirkpatrick, Mr William Brown at Fintry, Mr David M'Gibbon at Buchanan, ministers, and Sir James Colquhoun of Lufs, ruling elder : From the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr Lamont at Kilfinan, Mr John Melvill at Dunoon, ministers, and Mr Bannatyne M'Leod advocate, ruling elder : From the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr William M'Leod at Campbelton, Mr George M'Leish at Skipness, ministers, Alexander M'Millan of Dunmore, Esq; ruling elder : From the presbytery of Inverary, Mr John M'Aulay at Inverary, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, ministers, and Dr James Williamson ruling elder : From the burgh of Inverary, Archibald Campbell, Esq; late of Barbreck : From the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardchattan, Mr Patrick M'Donald at Kilmore, ministers, and Lord Stonefield ruling elder : From the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Alexander Stewart at Blair-Athole, Mr James Gow at Cargill, Mr James Smith at Rattray, Mr James Hunter at Auchtergaven, ministers, Mr John Swinton junior, advocate, and Professor Adam Ferguson ruling elders : From the presbytery of Perth,

Dr

Dr James Oswald at Methven, Mr Archibald Stevenson at St Madoes Mr George Frazer at Moneidie, Mr Allan Stewart at Kilspindie, ministers, Mr Alexander Belfches advocate, and Bailie John Caw merchant in Perth, ruling elders : From the presbytery of Stirling, Mr David Thomson at Gargunnock, Mr William Nimmo at Bothkenner, ministers, and Lord Barjarg ruling elder : From the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Drummond at Auchterarder, Mr Robert Menzies at Comrie, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Dunning, ministers, and John Lord Rollo ruling elder : From the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr Samuel Charteris at Kincardin, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, ministers, and Captain John Campbell of Kilpont, ruling elder : From the presbytery of Dumfermline, Mr David Hunter at Saline, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr Walter Macalpine at Culrofs, ministers, and Sir George Preston of Valleyfield, ruling elder : From the burgh of Culrofs, Mr David Ireland town-clerk of Culrofs : From the presbytery of Kirkcaldie, Mr Neil Bethune at Kennoway, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr George Schaw at Abbotshall, ministers, and Mr Andrew Balfour advocate, ruling elder : From the burgh of Kirkcaldie, Provost John Currie : From the burgh of Kinghorn, James Balmain, Esq; From the burgh of Burntisland, Samuel Charteris, Esq; From the Presbytery of Cupar, Mr Robert Preston at Cupar, Mr Hugh Glas at Kettle, Mr James Bruce at Dunbog, Mr John Adamson at Kilmeny, ministers, Captain Frederick Maitland, and Andrew Barclay of Pittachop, Esq; ruling elders : From the presbytery of St Andrews, Mr Alexander Walker at Kemback, Dr John Chalmers at Kilconquhar, Mr David Beith at Pittenweem, Mr David Burd at Largo, ministers, James Durham of Largo, Esq; and John M'Naughton, Esq; ruling elders : From the burgh of St Andrews, Mr William Chalmers writer in Edinburgh : From the university of St Andrews, Principal Muirison : From the burgh of Crail, John Balfour of Balbirnie, Esq; From the burgh of Anstruther Easter, Mr Alexander Hart writer in Edinburgh : From the burgh of Anstruther Wester, Mr John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh : From the burgh of Kilrennie, William Alexander, Esq; From the presbytery of Meigle, Mr John Robertson at Alyth, Mr James Spankie at Cupar Angus, Mr William Dow at Blairgowrie, ministers, and James Wright of Lawton, Esq; ruling elder : From the presbytery of Forfar, Dr John Young at

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Inverarity,

Inverarity, Mr Griffith Ferguson at Dunichen, ministers, and the Earl of Northesk ruling elder : From the burgh of Forfar, John Adams of Maryburgh, Esq; From the presbytery of Dundee, Mr David Scot at Auchterhouse, Mr James Mill at Kinnaird, Dr James Blenshall at Dundee, ministers, and Mr Alexander Thom merchant in Dundee, ruling elder : From the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr Thomas Craig at Guthrie, Mr John Aitken at St Vigians, ministers, and the hon. Baron Maule ruling elder : From the burgh of Aberbrothock, the Rt. hon. George Earl of Dalhousie : From the presbytery of Brechin, Mr George Aitken at Montrose, Mr John Bisset at Brechin, Mr David Bryce at Logie, ministers, and Mr John Scot advocate, ruling elder : From the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr James Smith at Garvock, Mr William Forbes at Fordoun, Mr John Hutchison at Fetteresso, ministers, and Mr William Galloway merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; To be commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after-mentioned ; with power to the said commissioners, or their *quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon ; and thereafter the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said commissioners to chuse their own moderator : And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said commissioners, or their *quorum* above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly, and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly ; and to advert to the interest of the church on every occasion, that the church, and present establishment thereof do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs, or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets ;

diets ; and what shall be determined at one diet of the commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force, till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert ; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said commission to answer for the same. And further, the said commission is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to synods and presbyteries, upon application to them for that end : Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct ; and give directions about printing the same. And the commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correspondence with the committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein ; and, if need be, to apply to the government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned : And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same ; declaring, that in, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly

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bly appoints the said commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this commission is to continue and endure until another commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the commission, the General Assembly prohibits the presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this commission; and such of the members of these presbyteries as are on the commission, are required all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same; and the General Assembly appoint their commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are, or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any presbytery, or synod of this church, shall decline to comply with the sentence of the commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been sometimes the practice; but shall allow the same to ly over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such presbyteries or synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament, for redress of the grievance of patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this commission. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly 1736.

VII.

26th May 1770.

Act anent the Introduction of Commissions to certain Universities.

IT being represented, that the present form of commissions from universities in the introduction, does not suit certain of the universities, viz. in these words: The principal, professors, masters, and other members of the university of ———, having right to elect, being convened, &c. Therefore the General Assembly did, and hereby do appoint, That in the form for those universities, to whom the words above-mentioned do not agree, in place of these, the words shall be as contained in the 8th act of Assembly 1726, viz. A meeting of the university of ——— being convened betwixt the hours, &c. And in like manner in the form of an after-election.

VIII.

29th May 1770.

Act anent the bringing in of Overtures.

THE General Assembly proceeded to consider the overture respecting the bringing in of overtures to the Assembly. The General Assembly, after reasoning thereupon, agreed thereto, and enacted as follows: The General Assembly did, and hereby do ordain, That no business or overture shall be brought into the Assembly the same day on which it was moved in the committee for overtures; and that after any overture's being transmitted or moved in the Assembly, it shall ly on the table for one diet.

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Act

IX.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this place on Thursday the Twenty-third day of May, in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one.

Collected and extracted from the records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*

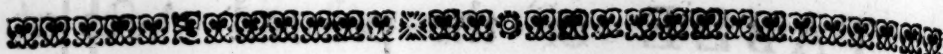
A TABLE

A

TABLE of the printed Acts of the
General Assembly held in the Year
1770.

- I. *THE King's commission to JOHN Earl of Glasgow, produced, and ordered to be recorded* Page 3
- II. *The King's most gracious letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's commissioner* 5
- III. *The General Assembly's answer to the King's most gracious letter* 6
- IV. *An address by the General Assembly to his Majesty* 9
- V. *Commission to some ministers and ruling elders, for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's royal bounty for that end* 10
- VI. *Commission to some ministers and ruling elders for discussing affairs referred to them* 16
- VII. *Act anent the introduction of commissions to certain universities* 25
- VIII. *Act anent the bringing in of overtures* *ib.*
- IX. *Act appointing the diet of the next General Assembly* 26

Former



Former Overtures again transmitted.

UPON report being made from the committee for overtures, concerning overtures transmitted by the last and preceding Assemblies, the General Assembly agreed, that all these be again transmitted; and do hereby appoint, that such presbyteries as have not yet sent up their opinions concerning them, do send up the same to the next General Assembly. The overtures are these: *1mo*, Anent sending up opinions on overtures transmitted by the Assembly. *2do*, For repealing that part of the form of processes anent exculpation. *3tio*, Anent members of inferior courts judging in causes appealed from them; and that the report concerning them be brought into an earlier diet of the Assembly.



The Act of Assembly 1732, anent the
Method of planting Vacant Churches,
transmitted as an Overture to Presby-
teries.

THE General Assembly, taking to their serious consideration, how necessary it is, that (until it shall please God, in his Providence, to relieve this church from the grievances arising from the act restoring patronages) there should be an established rule for the planting of vacant parishes, when the right of doing so falls into the hands of presbyteries, either *tanquam jure devoluto*, or by the consent of such as have interest: And that there may be an uniform method followed by presbyteries in this matter, and so the unhappy debates and divisions, which have often fallen out upon such occasions, may be prevented in time coming; and also, that it may be evident, that this church desires to have all the parishes in it settled in such a manner as may give reasonable satisfaction to all concerned: Therefore enacts and ordains, That all presbyteries, when the planting of any parish shall fall into their hands *tanquam jure devoluto*, take care to have the same supplied by a well qualified gospel minister, to labour among the people for their spiritual edification: And, in order thereunto, when application shall be made unto them by any two or more of the heretors and elders, jointly or separately, for the moderation of a call, the presbytery shall appoint intimation to be made from the pulpit of the vacant parish, ten free days before the meeting for that effect, that a call is to be moderated, and shall appoint one or more of their number, who, after sermon, shall meet with the heretors and elders of the vacant parish, in presence of the congregation, upon the day fixed for the moderation, to moderate in a call to one to
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be minister of the parish, who is to be elected and called by the heretors and elders in a conjunct meeting: That, after the finishing of the election, the person so elected to be minister shall be proposed to the congregation, to be either approven or disapproven of by them: That the disapprovers shall offer their reasons to the presbytery of the bounds, at whose judgment, and by whose determination, the calling and entry of the minister shall be ordered and concluded, according to the rules of this church. That in case of vacancies in royal burghs, the election or call shall be by the magistrates, town council, and elders, in a joint meeting, where there is no landward parish; and by the magistrates, town council, heretors, and elders, in a joint meeting, where part of the parish is to landward. And the General Assembly declares, That all heretors, being protestants, who shall be willing to subscribe the call by themselves, or their lawful proxies, or who shall, by a writing under their hand, invite the person called to be minister of the parish, and to exercise the duties of his ministerial function, and promise to encourage him in it, shall be admitted to vote in calls or elections of ministers to vacant parishes: And that no vote, either of heretors or elders, shall be sustained, except such as shall have either signed the call, or for whom there shall be produced a writing, in the manner and to the purpose above-mentioned, in presence of the minister moderating in the call. And in case of difference amongst the heretors and elders about the person to be elected, the minister moderating is appointed to reduce what shall be alledged on both sides into a minute, containing the true matters of fact, impartially, and to lay the same before the presbytery, for their decision. And in case no application shall be made to the presbytery, in manner foresaid, by the heretors or elders, for moderating a call, within six months after the *jus devolutum* begins to take place: the General Assembly recommends it to presbyteries to plant vacant churches in such manner, as shall contribute most to the advancement of religion, and to the peace and comfort of parishes.

And that there may be no unnecessary delays in planting of churches, the Assembly further ordains, That,

That, in case within the six months next after the vacancy, such as have interest shall show their disposition to comply with this ecclesiastical rule, by applying to the presbytery to have the parish planted in the way and manner above specified, the presbytery shall proceed to the settlement thereof in the forefaid way and manner, without putting it off till the said six months are expired. And the General Assembly recommends it to all ministers, preachers, and members of this church, to take care that they do not encourage nor go into any method for planting vacant churches, contrary to, or inconsistent with this act.

INDEX

that in case within the six months next after the
passage of this act, any person shall have interest that
he or she will be admitted to the office of
the property to have the fourth part of the way and
manor above described, the property shall proceed to
the division thereof in the best way and manner
within power is of all the said six months are expired.
And the General Assembly recommends it to all magis-
trates, justices and ministers of this court to be
careful to do a report not to have any method
for making a new church, contrary to or inconsistent
with this act.

INDEX

INDEX OR ABRIDGEMENT

OF THE

Actings and proceedings of the General Assembly of the church of Scotland, held in the year 1770, which are not printed at full length.

May 24. 1770. Sess. 1.

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr James M'Knight, now minister of the gospel at Jedburgh, moderator of the last General Assembly, the ministers and ruling elders, convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner; and after prayer by the said Dr James M'Knight, Dr Alexander Carlyle minister of the gospel at Inveresk, being chosen moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The King's commission to John Earl of Glasgow, to represent his Majesty's royal person, read and recorded.

The King's most gracious letter to this Assembly, read and recorded.

The commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling delivered in to the Assembly by his Grace the commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A committee named for answering the King's most gracious letter.

A committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof; naming ministers to preach before his Grace the King's commissioner; receiving in lists of probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

Committee for overtures named.

I

Committee

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.
Adjournment.

May 25. 1770. *Seff.* 2.

Sederunt.

A new commission produced.

A diet spent in prayer.

The act 7th of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observations thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's commissioner.

The committee for overtures and bills, appointed to meet this evening at their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1770. *Seff.* 3.

Sederunt.

A new commission produced.

The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious letter to this Assembly, brought in and approved; and his Grace the commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The report of the committee for revising commissions, having passed the committee for overtures, the same was called for and read.

The General Assembly having considered the said report, rejected the commissions from the presbytery of Deer, and burgh of Dumfries, they being both informal and sustained the commission from the burgh of Selkirk.

It being represented, that the present form of commissions from universities in the introduction does not suit certain of the universities, the General Assembly appoints, that in the form for those universities to whom the words in the beginning of the present form do not agree, the words shall be as contained in the 8th act of Assembly 1726.

The roll of causes transmitted by the committee for bills, called for, produced, and read over.

Resolve anent taking in causes.

A committee named to consider a reference from the synod of Glasgow and Ayr, anent Mr Maitland, and to report.

A committee named to revise the synod-book of Aberdeen.

A committee named to revise the synod-book of Glasgow and Ayr.

A committee named to revise the synod-book of Perth and Stirling.

A committee named to revise the synod-book of Angus and Mearns.

A letter of excuse from the synod-clerk of Fife, for not sending up the synod's record to this Assembly, read, and the excuse sustained.

The synod-books of Moray, Ross, Glenelg, Sutherland and Caithness, Orkney, Lothian and Tweeddale, Merse and Teviotdale, Dumfries, Galloway, Argyle, and the presbytery-book of Zetland, not being brought up to this Assembly, resolved, that the reasons thereof be inquired into.

The committee on the window tax impowered to meet, and prepare their report, to be brought into this Assembly.

A reference from the synod of Lothian and Tweeddale anent David Dickson of Kilbucho, Esq; and the presbytery of Biggar, heard; the General assembly found, that the sentence, deposing Mr Dickson from the office of the holy ministry, included his deposition from the office of elder; and therefore, that he could not sit as a member of this Assembly, nor of any other judicatory of this church.

The commission for overtures and bills, appointed to meet this evening in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 28. Sess. 4.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Mr Dickson compeared at the bar, and requested, that the cause which was before the Assembly on Saturday last should be again heard: His request refused.

Two overtures, one respecting overtures, and the other respecting privy censures, transmitted by the committee

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tee for overtures, read, and ordered to lye on the table till another diet.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over.

A committee named, to consider a memorial for Mr Robert Stirling minister at Norriestoun, anent the Norriestoun fund, and to report.

A committee named, to revise the register of the actings and proceedings of the commission of the late General Assembly, audite the procurator and agent's accompts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

A committee named, to revise the register of the actings and proceedings of the committee named by last Assembly, for managing the royal bounty, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

The committee for overtures impowered to receive in from the severall members, any instructions given to them by their respective synods or presbyteries; class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly, and receive in and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

An appeal of George Haldane, Esq; of Gleneagles, and other heretors, callers of Mr Patrick Crichton, the Crown's presentee, to be minister of Glendovan, against a sentence of the presbytery of Auchterarder, affirmed by the synod of Perth and Stirling, refusing to sustain the call in favour of Mr Crichton, heard; the sentences of the presbytery and synod *reversed*. The call sustained, and the presbytery appointed to proceed to the settlement of the presentee, as minister of the parish of Glendovan, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the church.—Dissents entered against this judgment.

The committee for overtures and bills, appointed to meet this evening, in their usual places.

Adjournment.

Sederunt.

May 29. 1770. Sess. 5.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

A motion made for addressing his Majesty on the safe delivery of the Queen, and a committee named to prepare a draught of the same.

A letter from the moderator of the synod of New-York read, and a committee named to prepare an answer thereto, and to bring in a nomination of a proper standing committee to correspond with that synod.

The overture anent bringing in of overtures to this Assembly, called for, read over, and agreed to.

An overture from the synod of Moray transmitted by the committee for overtures, read, and ordered to ly on the table till another diet.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over.

A petition for David Dickson of Kilbucho, transmitted by the committee, craving the Assembly would consider some papers which had been formerly transmitted, and alledged not to have been considered by the Assembly, read; the Assembly found it incompetent for Mr Dickson to be heard on the subject, and dismissed the petition.

The synod-book of Orkney produced, and a committee named to revise the same.

An applications for a share of the public money remitted to the committee on the public accompts.

An appeal of Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Baronet, patron of the parish of St Ninians, and several heretors of the said parish, concurring in a call to Mr David Thomson minister at Gargunnoch, to be minister at St Ninians, from a sentence of the synod of Perth and Stirling, refusing to sustain the call in favour of Mr Thomson, heard; the sentence of the said synod reversed, the call sustained, and the presbytery of Stirling appointed to take the proper steps toward Mr Thomson's transportation and settlement as minister of the parish of St Ninians, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church. Dissents entered against this judgment.

The committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

K

Sederunt.

May 30. 1770, *Sess.* 6.

Sederunt.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over.

There was produced and read a petition for William Proudfoot and his wife; the General Assembly ordered the same to ly on the table till another diet.

The report of the committee on the window tax, called for, given in, and read, and ordered to be recorded: The thanks of the house given to Dr Carlyle for his great care and diligence in the execution of his commission, and the service he has done to the Church in this matter. The committee renewed with the same powers, and some members added thereto.

Mr John Spotiswood, solicitor at London, appointed solicitor for the Church, in place of Dr Gordon, the Church's former solicitor, now retired from business.

A committee named to audite Dr Wishart's accompts of the money contributed by the several presbyteries, and paid in to him, for defraying the expence of the application to parliament to be relieved from the window-tax.

The consideration of the overture from the synod of Moray, delayed till another diet.

A committee named to consider the affair of Mr Thomas Stewart minister at Crief, and to report on Friday.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1770. *Sess.* 7.

Sederunt.

The procurator and agent's accompts produced, and ordered to ly on the table.

The members of the several synods appointed to meet among themselves, in order to bring in a list of the nominators of the commission, according to the 6th act of Assembly 1705.

The consideration of the overture from the synod of Moray resumed; and the synod authorised to meet once in the year on the second Tuesday of August 1771 and 1772, and to report to the Assembly 1773, how far

far this is found convenient for the several presbyteries, that the Assembly may then pass this interim appointment into a standing act, as they shall see cause.

The cause anent the settlement of the parish of Erskine, referred to the commission in August, or any subsequent diet.

An appeal of John Galbreath portioner of Aber, and elder of the parish of Kilmaronock, and other heretors and heads of families of the said parish, against a sentence of the presbytery of Dunbarton, sustaining a call to Mr James Adie to be minister of the parish of Kilmaronock, heard, and the sentence of the presbytery affirmed.

Resolve anent the appeal of Mr Robert Walker.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet in their usual places this evening.

Adjournment.

June 1. 1770: Sess. 8.

Sederunt.

Report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over.

The General Assembly ordered a petition for David Dickson of Kilbucho, Esq; transmitted by the said committee, to ly on the table.

The draught of an address to his Majesty brought in and approven, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The report of the committee, appointed to consider the reference from the synod of Glasgow and Ayr anent Mr Maitland, called for, given in and read over, and ordered to ly on the table till another diet, on account of Mr Maitland's being absent.

The report of the committee, appointed to audite Dr Wishart's accompts of the money contributed by the several presbyteries towards an application to parliament for an exemption from the window tax, called for, given in and read. The opinion of the committee adopted by the Assembly, and Dr Wishart's accompts approven of, and ordered to be kept *in retentis*. And the General Assembly recommended it to all who have

have not already contributed, to do it with all convenient dispatch.

The Assembly resolved to consider to-morrow the overture anent reponing Mr Thomas Gillespie, delayed by last Assembly.

Upon report of the committee to consider the affair of Mr Thomas Stewart, the Assembly approves of the overture of said committee for terminating this matter, and accordingly testifies their great dissatisfaction with the said Mr Thomas Stewart, for his immoral conduct, and declares him to stand suspended *sine die* from the office of the ministry; and strictly prohibits him from exercising the said office, or any part thereof; and approves of the deed now granted by Mr Stewart, assigning to the presbytery of Auchterarder the stipend, manse, and glebe of the parish of Crief, and obliges him not to reside within the bounds of that presbytery. A protest taken by some of the brethren against this sentence, and dissents entered thereafter by other members. The procurator for the Church reserved leave to himself to be heard to-morrow upon the protest.

Adjournment.

June 2. 1770. Sess. 9.

Sederunt.

The procurator for the Church heard upon the subject of the protest taken at last diet, and the entering of such a protestation by parties against the judgment of the supreme Court, declared irregular and unconstitutional.

The assignation by Mr Stewart to the presbytery of Auchterarder, delivered to the presbytery-clerk in presence of the Assembly.

The report of the trustees of the fund for a provision to ministers widows, &c. produced, and ordered to ly on the table till another diet.

Act approving the accompt of Mr David Dalrymple procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 643 : 10 : 0 $\frac{2}{3}$ Sterling, excepting a balance of L. 55 : 11 : 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ Sterl. which he is to charge himself with in his new accompt.

Act

Act approving the accompt of James Edmonstone agent for the Church, and sub-clerk to the General Assembly, and appointing that he debit himself in his next accompt for the sum of L. 26 : 9 : 5½ Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

The report of the visitors of the commission-book given in and read, and the commission's conduct approved of. The Assembly's thanks given from the chair to the moderator of the commission for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and their book ordered to be attested.

The report of the committee, named to consider the applications for shares of the public money, called for, given in and read, and the consideration thereof delayed.

The report of the visitors of the Royal bounty register given in and read; the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A committee named for managing the Royal bounty this year, with the commission and instructions to them.

The overture anent reponing Mr Thomas Gillespie considered, and dismissed.

The report of the committee, appointed to consider the reference anent Mr Maitland, again called for, and read over, bearing the presbytery should be at liberty to do in that matter what they should judge most proper in the present circumstances, either by dropping said process altogether, or by examining the witnesses of new, (the former depositions having been lost,) or by proving the tenor of the evidence that had been adduced, as they should see cause. The General Assembly adopted said report.

The report of the committee, appointed to consider the memorial anent Mr Stirling minister of Norriestoun, called for, given in and read over, bearing that the Assembly should authorise the presbytery of Dumblane to apply six hundred merks out of the growing interest of the Norriestoun fund, in order to build a manse for the minister of the perambulated bounds, intended to be erected into a separate parish. The General Assembly adopted said report.

The committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening in their usual place.

Adjournment.

L. Sederunt.

*June 4. 1770. Sess. ult.***Sederunt.**

The report of the committee, appointed by last General Assembly to consider the overture anent the improvement of ministers glebes, called for, produced and read over, and a new committee appointed to consider the same, with a new overture given in to this Assembly upon the same subject, and appointed them to report to next Assembly.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, produced and read over. The General Assembly appointed an overture anent the age of ruling elders, and their election as members of presbytery and synod, to ly over till next Assembly.

The report of the committee, for naming the members of the commission, and drawing up instructions to them, brought in and approven of.

Return for the presbytery of Edinburgh to the overture transmitted by last Assembly anent the form of a commission for the consistory of Campvere, signifying that they agreed to the overture; but as there was no return from the consistory itself, the Assembly again transmitted the overture to the consistory.

The report of the committee, appointed by last Assembly for considering the amendments to the overture anent licensing probationers, not being ready, the General Assembly continued said committee, and appointed them to report to next Assembly, and added thereto Dr James Oswald, Dr John Chalmers, and Mr James Morrison.

The report of the committee appointed by last Assembly for considering the order of the house, and the better accommodation of the members, not being ready, the General Assembly continued that committee.

The report of the committee, appointed to prepare an answer to the letter from the moderator of the synod of New-York, and a nomination of a standing committee to correspond with that synod, called for, given in and read over, and approven of by the Assembly.

The report of the committee, named to consider applications for shares of the public money with the procurator's

tor's opinion on these applications, again called for and read.

The General Assembly appoints as follows :

That the presbytery of Biggar should be assisted out of the public fund of the Church; and impowered the procurator to pay any sums of money that should be found necessary for discussing the appeal, at Dr Dickson's instance against them, mentioned in their petition.

That Mr William M'Leod minister at Campbeltoun should be allowed the sum of L. 35 Sterling, to enable him to carry through a process of augmentation, &c. presently depending before the Court of Session, in case the expence of the process shall amount to that sum.

That Mr John M'Aulay minister at Inveraray should be allowed the sum of L. 25 Sterling, to enable him to defend the process mentioned in his petition, in case the expence amount to that sum.

That Mr Philip Redpath minister at Hutton should be allowed the sum of L. 25 Sterling, to enable him to carry through a process of augmentation presently depending, in case the expence shall amount to so much.

And that Mr William Anderson minister at Manner should be allowed the sum of L. 15 Sterling, to help to indemnify him of the expences he was put to in obtaining his grass, &c.

The persons above named to be ranked as creditors on the fund, and to draw their payments after the debts already contracted on said fund shall be paid.

The reasons of dissent against the sentence of this Assembly in the cause of Glendovan, given in in writing, and read, and ordered to ly *in retentis*.

The reasons of dissent against the sentence of this Assembly in the cause of St Ninians, given in in writing, and read, and ordered to ly *in retentis*.

The reasons of dissent against the sentence of this Assembly in the cause anent Mr Stewart, given in in writing, and read, and ordered to ly *in retentis*.

The report of the trustees for managing the fund for a provision to ministers widows, &c. containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, being called for, was read, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The synod-book of Aberdeen attested,

The

The synod-book of Glasgow and Ayr attested.

The synod-book of Perth and Stirling attested.

The synod-book of Angus and Mearns attested.

The synod-book of Orkney attested.

The cause of Mr Robert Walker minister at Monzie, referred to the commission.

List of probationers produced, and their number ordered to be recorded.

Protestations admitted.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, referred to the commission.

A petition for David Dickson of Kilbucho read, and the kirk-session of Kilbucho, and every other session within the bounds of the Church, prohibited from ordaining or receiving him as an elder, without first consulting the General Assembly.

A committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The moderator's speech to the Assembly and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing the next meeting of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer and singing of psalms.

F I N I S.

